

REMARKS

The present application is a continuation of co-pending application Serial No. 10/352,668, filed January 28, 2003, which is a continuation of application Serial No. 09/881,421, filed June 14, 2001, now U.S. Patent No. 6,527,626, which is a division of application Serial No. 09/593,045, filed June 12, 2000, now U.S. Patent No. 6,254,460, which is a division of application Serial No. 09/187,307, filed November 4, 1998, now U.S. Patent No. 6,409,586, which is a continuation of application Serial No. 08/917,018, filed August 22, 1997, now U.S. Patent No. 5,919,082.

Original claims 1-45 have been canceled and claims 46-65 have been added to the present application. Present pending claims 46-65 are presented herein for consideration. Support for the added claims can be found, for example, from page 8, line 20 to page 9, line 3; page 9, line 23 to page 10, line 12; and in the drawings and elsewhere in the specification. Accordingly, no new matter has been introduced by the addition of claims 46-65.

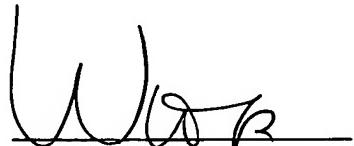
With respect to those changes set forth herein that are made to the specification by the present Preliminary Amendment; deletions are shown in strikethrough, while additions are underlined.

Entry of this Preliminary Amendment prior to substantive review of the instant application, and allowance of all claims at an early date are earnestly solicited.

If the undersigned can be of assistance in advancing the application to allowance, the Examiner may contact the undersigned at the number set forth below.

11/25/03
Date

Respectfully submitted,



William E. Kuss
Registration No. 41,919
Customer No. 26,285

KIRKPATRICK & LOCKHART LLP
Henry W. Oliver Building
535 Smithfield Street
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15222-2312

Telephone: (412) 355-6323
Facsimile: (412) 355-6501